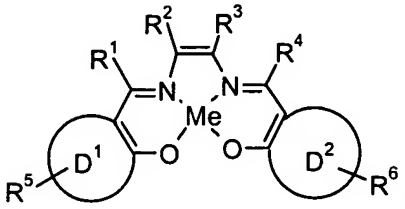
In the claims:

1. (currently amended): A metal complex of the following formula



(I), wherein

Me is a transition metal of Sub-Group 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12, ~~preferably 9, 10 or 11,~~

D^1 and D^2 are each independently of the other a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring or ring system, which may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more groups R^5 and R^6,

R^1 and R^4 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a perfluoroalkyl radical, an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl radical, an aryl radical or an aralkyl radical,

R^2 and R^3 are a cyano group, or
R^2 and R^3 together form a five to seven membered heterocyclic ring, or
R^2 and R^3 together form an aromatic carbocyclic ring, which is substituted by at least one electron accepting substituent, or which is substituted by at least one electron donating substituent,

R^5 and R^6 being a halogen atom, such as fluorine, chlorine or bromine, a group $-NR^8R^9$, a group $-SO_2NR^8R^9$, wherein

R^8 and R^9 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a C_1-C_{24}alkylcarbonyl group, an alkyl group which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, a C_{6-24}aryl-carbonyl radical or C_{7-24}aralkyl-carbonyl radical, an aryl group, or an aralkyl group, or R^8 and R^9 together form a five- to seven-membered heterocyclic ring, which optionally can be interrupted by D,

a nitro group, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, an alkyl group, an alkyl group which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, an alkoxy group which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, an aryloxy group, an aralkyloxy group, an alkylthio group which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, an arylthio group, an aralkylthio group, an acyl radical, a phenyl group, an ester group, ~~such as a phosphonic acid, phosphoric acid or carboxylic acid ester~~

~~group,~~ a carboxamide group, a sulfamide group, an ammonium group, a carboxylic acid, sulfonic acid, phosphonic acid or phosphoric acid group or a salt thereof,

wherein at least one of the substituents R^5 and at least one of the substituents R^6 is an electron donating group, if R^2 and R^3 together form an aromatic carbocyclic ring, which is substituted by at least one electron accepting substituent,

or at least one of the substituents R^5 and at least one of the substituents R^6 is an electron accepting group, if R^2 and R^3 together form an aromatic carbocyclic ring, which is substituted by at least one electron donating substituent, wherein

D is -CO-; -S-; -SO-; $-SO_2-$; -O-; $-NR^{10}$; and

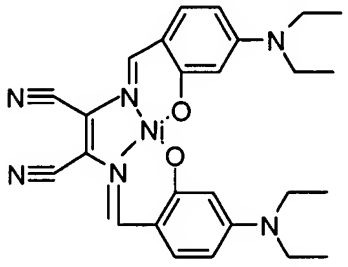
E is $-OR^{11}$; $-SR^{11}$; $-NR^{12}R^{13}$; $-COR^{14}$; $-COOR^{15}$; $-CONR^{12}R^{13}$; -CN; or halogen; wherein

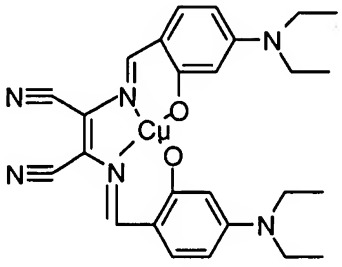
R^{10}, R^{12} and R^{13} are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, or an aralkyl group,

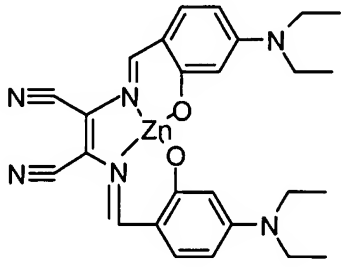
R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, or an aralkyl group,

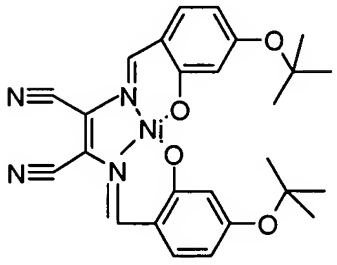
R^{14} is an alkyl group, an aryl group, or an aralkyl group, and

R^{15} is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, or an aralkyl group, with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded:

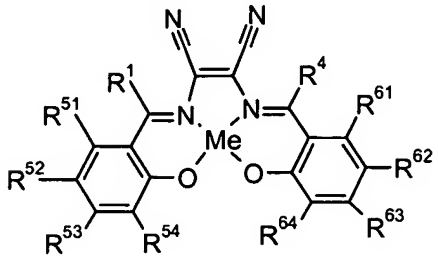


,


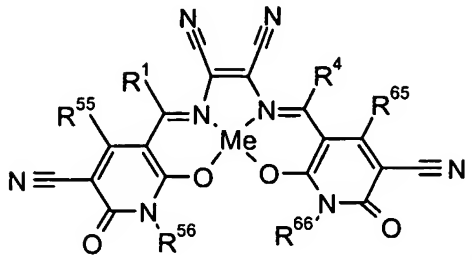
,


, and


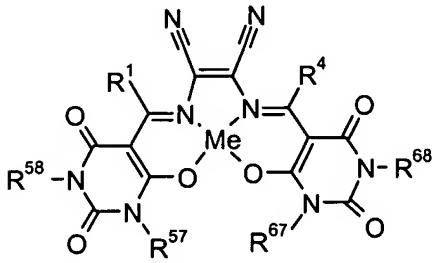
2. (currently amended): A metal complex according to claim 1, having the following formula



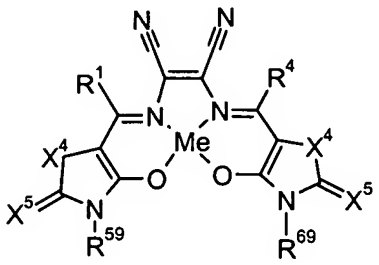
(IIa),



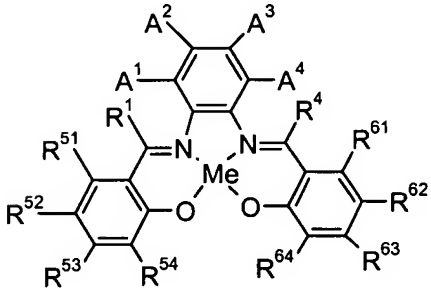
(IIb),



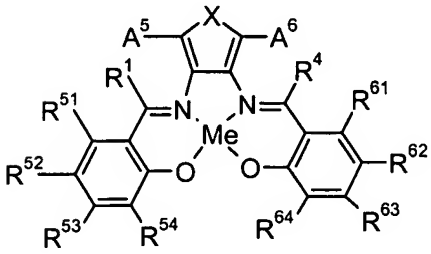
(IIc),



(IId),



(III), or



(IV), wherein

Me is Co^{3+}, ~~especially~~ Cu^{2+}, Ni^{2+}, Pd^{2+}, Pt^{2+}, Co^{2+}, or Zn^{2+},

X is >O, >S, >S=O, or $>SO_2$,

A^1, A^4, A^5 and A^6 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, an alkoxy radical, an alkyl radical, an alkyl radical which is interrupted one or more times by -O- or by -S-,

at least one of A^2 and A^3, ~~preferably A^2 and A^3, are~~ is an electron accepting substituent, ~~especially $-NO_2$, a halogen atom, especially a chlorine or a bromine atom, a group $-SO_2-NR^8R^9$~~ and the other is a hydrogen atom,

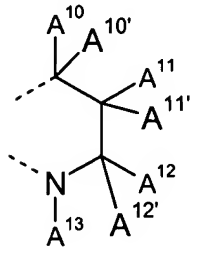
R^1 and R^4 are defined as in claim 1,

R^{51}, R^{52}, R^{54}, R^{61}, R^{62} and R^{64} are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, or an C_1-C_{18}alkyl group,

R^{53} and R^{63} are each independently of the other a hydroxy group, an C_1-C_{18}alkoxy group, an C_6-C_{24}aryloxy group, an C_7-C_{24}aralkyloxy group, a group $-NR^8R^9$ **[[,]]** or a salt thereof, wherein R^8 and R^9 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, an C_1-C_{18}alkyl group, an C_1-C_{18}alkyl group which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, an C_6-C_{24}aryl group, or an C_7-C_{24}aralkyl group, wherein D and E are as defined in claim 1,

or

R^{53} and R^{52}, R^{53} and R^{54}, R^{63} and R^{62}, and/or R^{63} and R^{64} are each independently of the other



,

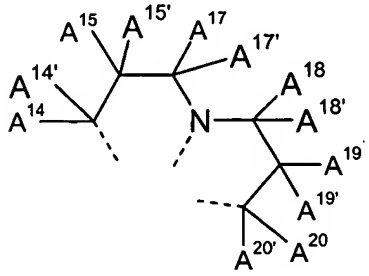
wherein A^{10}, $A^{10'}$, A^{11}, $A^{11'}$, A^{12} and $A^{12'}$ are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, or a C_1-C_8alkyl group,

or

$A^{10'}$ and $A^{11'}$ together, form a double bond, and A^{13} is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_8alkyl group,

or

R^{53} and R^{52} and R^{54}, and/or R^{63} and R^{62} and R^{64} are



wherein A^{14}, $A^{14'}$, A^{15}, $A^{15'}$, A^{17}, $A^{17'}$, A^{18}, $A^{18'}$, A^{19}, $A^{19'}$, A^{20} and $A^{20'}$ are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, or a C_1-C_8alkyl group,

R^{55} and R^{65} are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, or a C_1-C_{18}alkyl group,

R^{56}, R^{57}, R^{58}, R^{59}, R^{66}, R^{67}, R^{68} and R^{69} are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_{18}alkyl group, or a C_1-C_{18}alkyl group, which is interrupted by one or more oxygen atoms, and

X^4 and X^5 are each independently of the other a sulfur, or oxygen atom.

3. (currently amended): A metal complex according to claim 2 having the formula II, III, or IV, wherein

Me is Co^{3+}, ~~especially~~ Cu^{2+}, Ni^{2+}, Pd^{2+}, Pt^{2+}, Co^{2+}, or Zn^{2+},

X is >O, >S, >S=O, or $>SO_2$,

A^1, A^4, A^5 and A^6 are a hydrogen atom,

A^2 and A^3 are $-NO_2$,

R^1 and R^4 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a perfluoroC_1-C_8alkyl radical or a C_1-C_8alkyl radical,

R^{51}, R^{52}, R^{54}, R^{61}, R^{62} and R^{64} are a hydrogen atom,

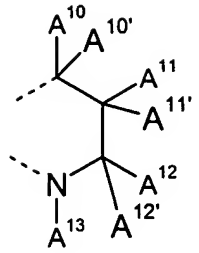
or

R^{51} and R^{52} together, and/or R^{61} and R^{62} together, form an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl ring,

R^{53} and R^{63} are each independently of the other a hydroxy group, an C_1-C_{18}alkoxy group, a group $-NR^8R^9$, wherein R^8 and R^9 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, an C_1-C_{18}alkyl group, a group $-(CH_2)_n$-OH, a group $-(CH_2CH_2O)_n$-R^{16}, where n is a number from the range 1-9 and R^{16} is H or C_1-C_{10}alkyl, or a salt thereof,

or

R^{53} and R^{52}, R^{53} and R^{54}, R^{63} and R^{62}, and/or R^{63} and R^{64} are each independently of the other



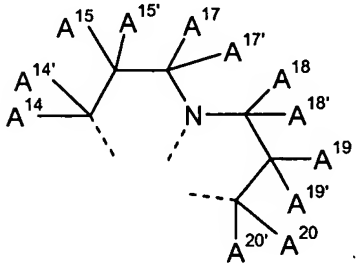
wherein A^{10}, $A^{10'}$, A^{11}, $A^{11'}$, A^{12} and $A^{12'}$ are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, or a C_1-C_8alkyl group,

or

$A^{10'}$ and $A^{11'}$ together, form a double bond, A^{13} is a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_8alkyl group,

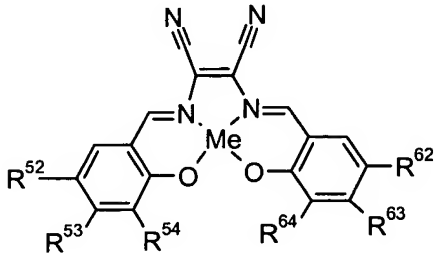
or

R^{53} and R^{52} and R^{54}, and/or R^{63} and R^{62} and R^{64} are

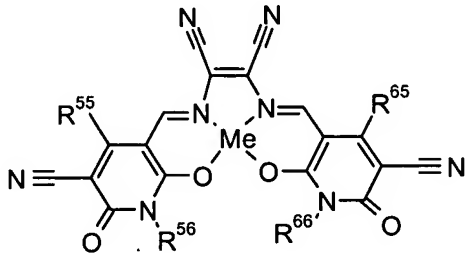


wherein A^{14}, $A^{14'}$, A^{15}, $A^{15'}$, A^{17}, $A^{17'}$, A^{18}, $A^{18'}$, A^{19}, $A^{19'}$, A^{20} and $A^{20'}$ are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, or a C_1-C_8alkyl group.

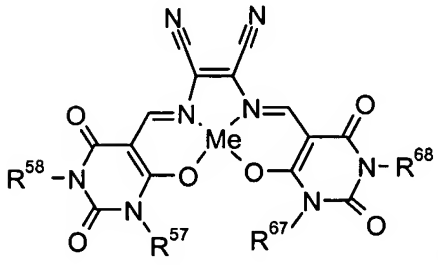
4. (currently amended): A metal complex according to claim 3, having the formula



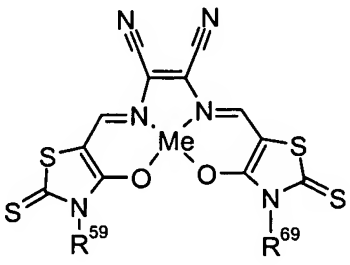
(IIa'),



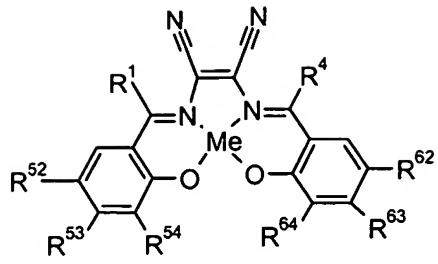
(IIb'),



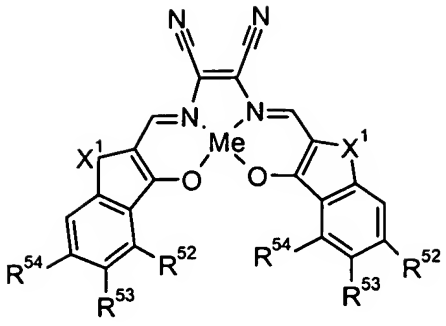
(IIc'),



(IId'),



(IIe),

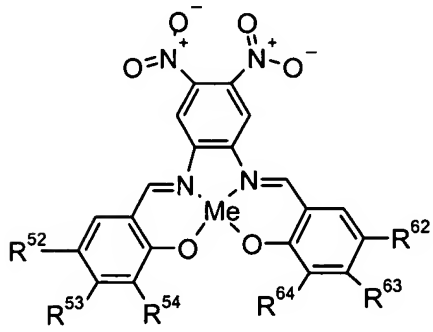


(IIf),

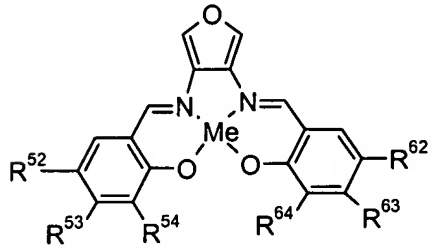
wherein X^1 is a group -O-, -S-, or $-NR^{200}-$, wherein R^{200} is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group,

R^{55} and R^{65} are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, or a C_1-C_{18}alkyl group,

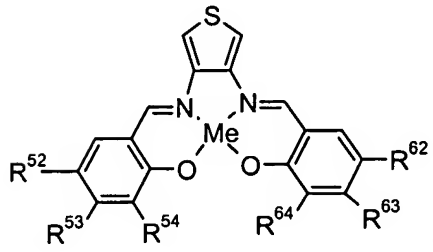
R^{56}, R^{57}, R^{58}, R^{59}, R^{66}, R^{67}, R^{68} and R^{69} are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_{18}alkyl group, or a C_1-C_{18}alkyl group, which is interrupted by one or more oxygen atoms,



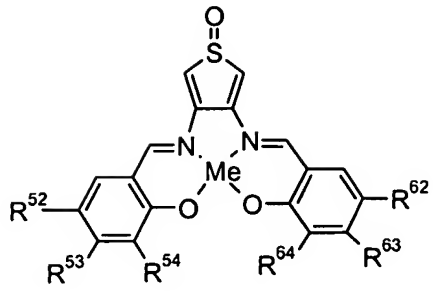
(IIIa), or



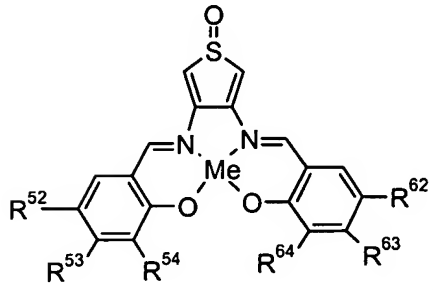
(IVa),



(IVb),



(IVc), or



(IVd),

wherein

Me is Co^{3+}, ~~especially~~ Cu^{2+}, Ni^{2+}, Pd^{2+}, Pt^{2+}, Co^{2+}, or Zn^{2+},

R^1 is hydrogen and R^4 is C_1-C_4perfluoroalkyl,

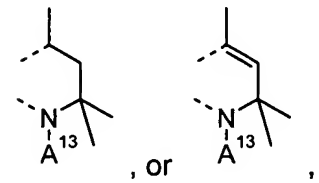
R^{52}, R^{54}, R^{62} and R^{64} are a hydrogen atom,

or

R^{53} and R^{63} are each independently of the other a hydroxy group, an C_1-C_{18}alkoxy group, a group $-NR^8R^9$, wherein R^8 and R^9 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, an C_1-C_{18}alkyl group, a group $-(CH_2)_n$-OH, a group $(CH_2CH_2O)_n$-R^{16}, where n is a number from the range 1-9 and R^{16} is H or C_1-C_{10}alkyl, or a salt thereof,

or

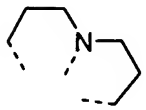
R^{53} and R^{52}, R^{53} and R^{54}, R^{63} and R^{62}, and/or R^{63} and R^{64} are each independently of the other a group of formula



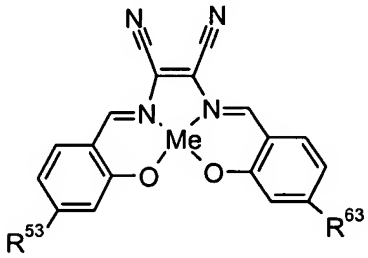
wherein

A^{13} a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_8alkyl group,

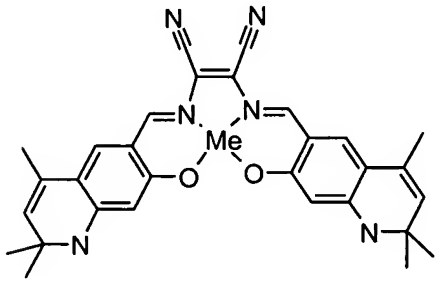
or R^{53} and R^{52} and R^{54}, and/or R^{63} and R^{62} and R^{64} are a group of formula



5. (currently amended): A metal complex according to claim 4 of the following structure:



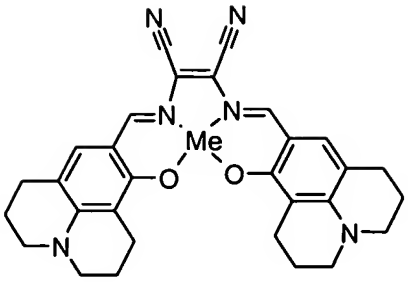
Compound	$R^{53} = R^{63}$	Me
A-1	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Ni^{2+}
A-2	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Cu^{2+}
A-3	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Co^{2+}
A-4	-OH	Ni^{2+}
A-5	-OH	Cu^{2+}
A-6	-OH	Co^{2+}
A-7	-ONa	Ni^{2+}
A-8	-ONa	Cu^{2+}
A-9	-ONa	Co^{2+}



A-10 (Me = Ni^{2+})

A-11 (Me = Cu^{2+})

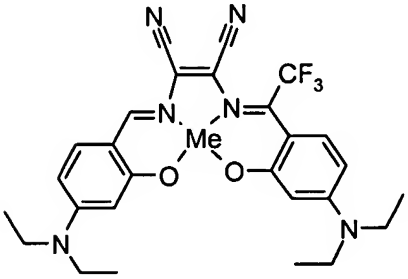
A-12 (Me = Co^{2+})



A-13 (Me = Ni^{2+})

A-14 (Me = Cu^{2+})

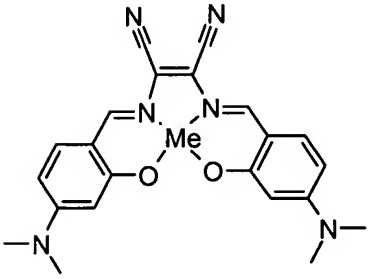
A-15 (Me = Co^{2+})



A-16 (Me = Ni^{2+})

A-17 (Me = Cu^{2+})

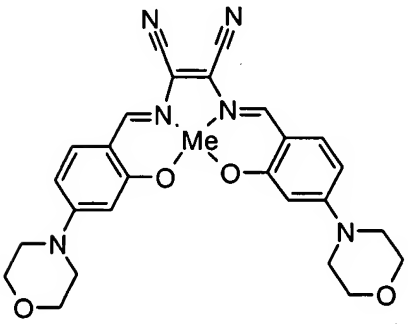
A-18 (Me = Co^{2+})



A-19 (Me = Ni^{2+})

A-20 (Me = Cu^{2+})

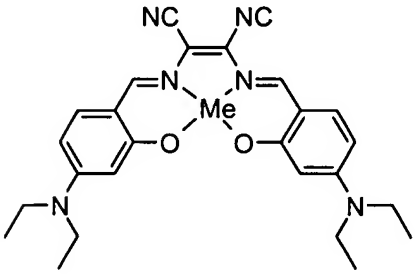
A-21 (Me = Co^{2+})



A-22 (Me = Ni^{2+})

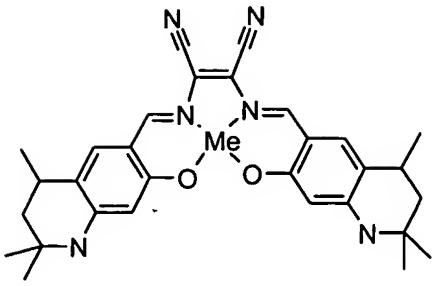
A-23 (Me = Cu^{2+})

A-24 (Me = Co^{2+})



A-25 (Me = Cu^{2+})

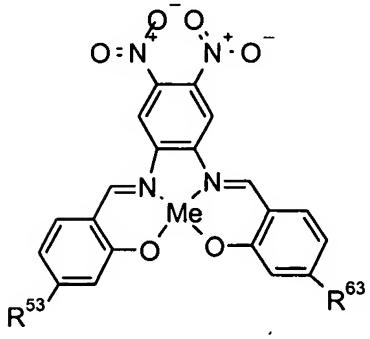
A-26 (Me = Co^{2+})



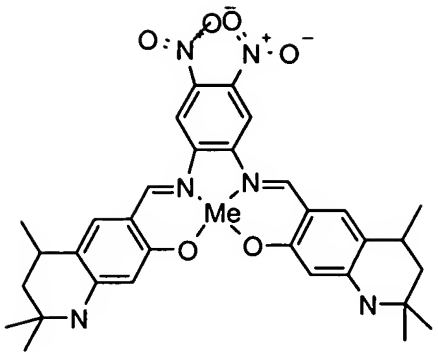
A-27 (Me = Ni^{2+})

A-28 (Me = Cu^{2+})

A-29 (Me = Co^{2+})



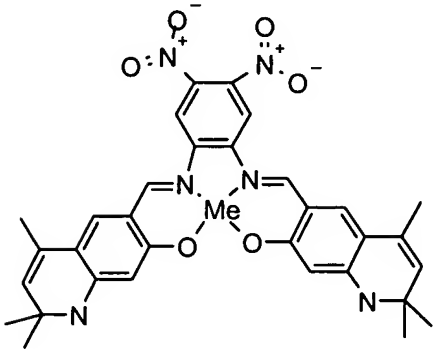
Compound	$R^{53} = R^{63}$	Me
B-1	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Ni^{2+}
B-2	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Cu^{2+}
B-3	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Co^{2+}
B-4	-OH	Ni^{2+}
B-5	-OH	Cu^{2+}
B-6	-OH	Co^{2+}
B-7	-ONa	Ni^{2+}
B-8	-ONa	Cu^{2+}
B-9	-ONa	Co^{2+}
B-10	$-ONH_4$	Ni^{2+}
B-11	$-ONH_4$	Cu^{2+}
B-12	$-ONH_4$	Co^{2+}



B-13 (Me = Ni^{2+})

B-14 (Me = Cu^{2+})

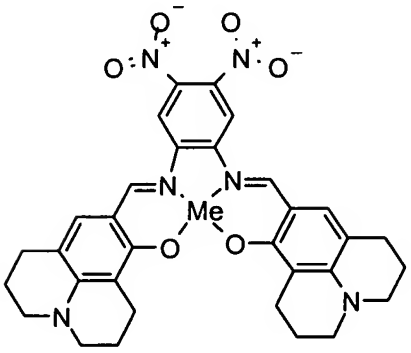
B-15 (Me = Co^{2+})



B-16 (Me = Ni^{2+})

B-17 (Me = Cu^{2+})

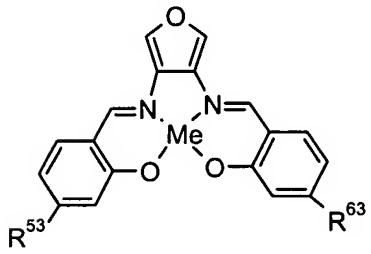
B-18 (Me = Co^{2+})



B-19 (Me = Ni^{2+})

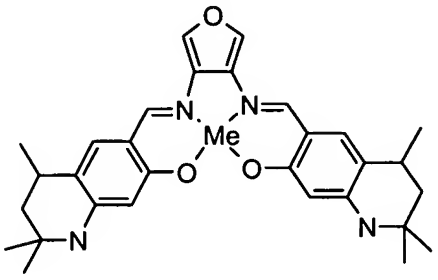
B-20 (Me = Cu^{2+})

B-21 (Me = Co^{2+})

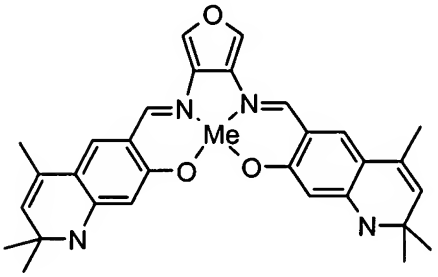


Compound	$R^{53} = R^{63}$	Me
C-1	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Ni^{2+}
C-2	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Cu^{2+}
C-3	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Co^{2+}

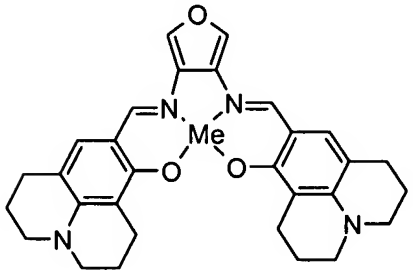
C-4	-OH	Ni^{2+}
C-5	-OH	Cu^{2+}
C-6	-OH	Co^{2+}



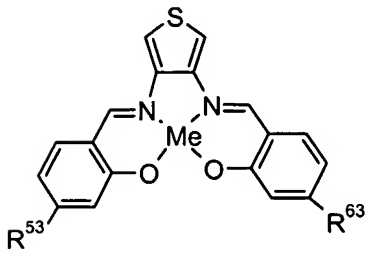
C-7 (Me = Ni^{2+})
C-8 (Me = Cu^{2+})
C-9 (Me = Co^{2+})



C-10 (Me = Ni^{2+})
C-11 (Me = Cu^{2+})
C-12 (Me = Co^{2+})

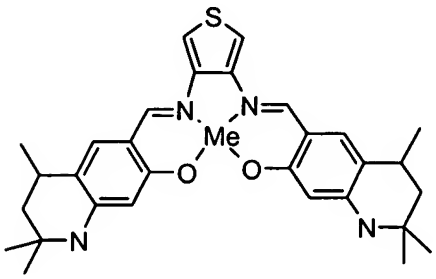


C-13 (Me = Ni^{2+})
C-14 (Me = Cu^{2+})
C-15 (Me = Co^{2+})

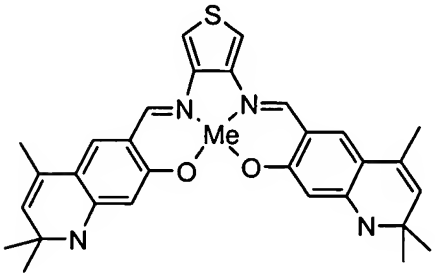


Compound	$R^{53} = R^{63}$	Me
D-1	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Ni^{2+}
D-2	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Cu^{2+}
C-3	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Co^{2+}
D-4	-OH	Ni^{2+}

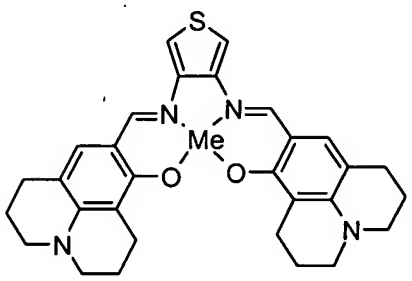
D-5	-OH	Cu^{2+}
D-6	-OH	Co^{2+}



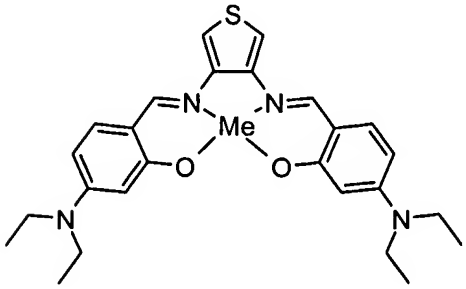
D-7 (Me = Ni^{2+})
D-8 (Me = Cu^{2+})
D-9 (Me = Co^{2+})



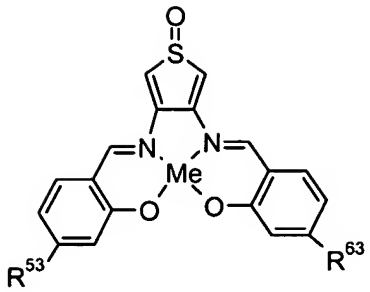
D-10 (Me = Ni^{2+})
D-11 (Me = Cu^{2+})
D-12 (Me = Co^{2+})



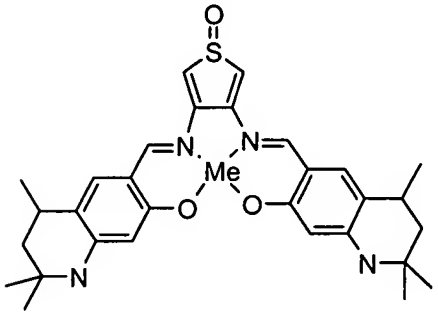
D-13 (Me = Ni^{2+})
D-14 (Me = Cu^{2+})
D-15 (Me = Co^{2+})



D-16 (Me = Ni^{2+})
D-17 (Me = Cu^{2+})
D-18 (Me = Co^{2+})



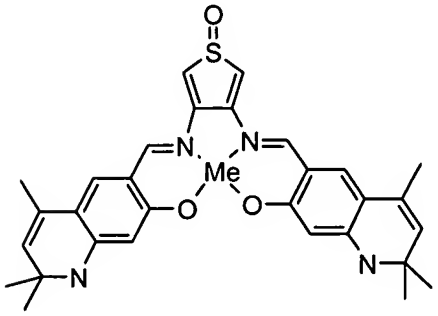
Compound	$R^{53} = R^{63}$	Me
E-1	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Ni^{2+}
E-2	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Cu^{2+}
E-3	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Co^{2+}
E-4	-OH	Ni^{2+}
E-5	-OH	Cu^{2+}
E-6	-OH	Co^{2+}



E-7 (Me = Ni^{2+})

E-8 (Me = Cu^{2+})

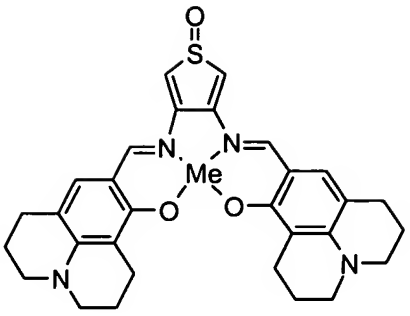
E-9 (Me = Co^{2+})



E-10 (Me = Ni^{2+})

E-11 (Me = Cu^{2+})

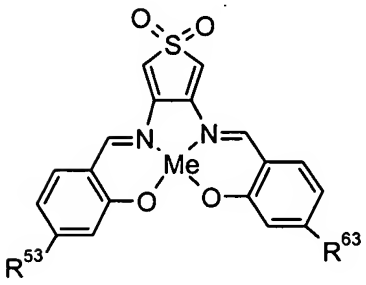
E-12 (Me = Co^{2+})



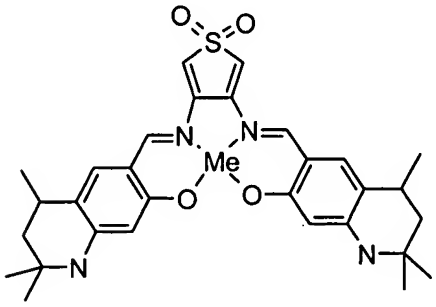
E-13 (Me = Ni^{2+})

E-14 (Me = Cu^{2+})

E-15 (Me = Co^{2+})



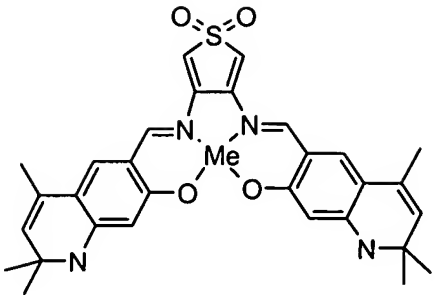
Compound	$R^{53} = R^{63}$	Me
F-1	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Ni^{2+}
F-2	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Cu^{2+}
F-3	$-N(CH_2)_2OH$	Co^{2+}
F-4	-OH	Ni^{2+}
F-5	-OH	Cu^{2+}
F-6	-OH	Co^{2+}



F-7 (Me = Ni^{2+})

F-8 (Me = Cu^{2+})

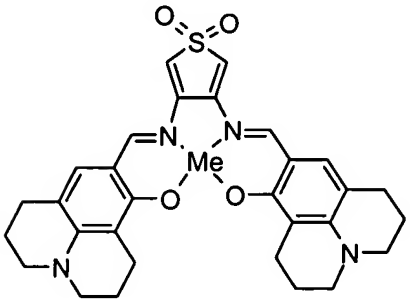
F-9 (Me = Co^{2+})



F-10 (Me = Ni^{2+})

F-11 (Me = Cu^{2+})

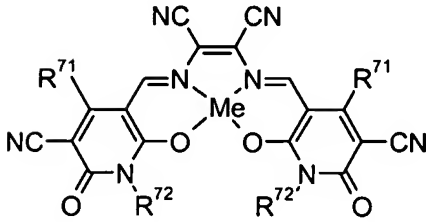
F-12 (Me = Co^{2+})



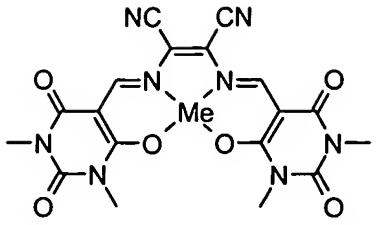
F-13 (Me = Ni^{2+})

F-14 (Me = Cu^{2+})

F-15 (Me = Co^{2+})



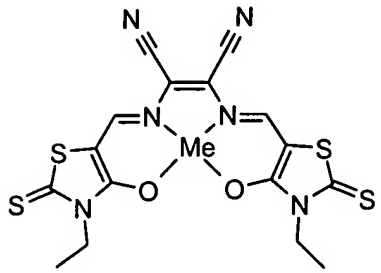
Compound	R^{71}	R^{72}	Me
G-1	$-CH_3$	$-CH_3$	Ni^{2+}
G-2	$-CH_3$	$-CH_3$	Cu^{2+}
G-3	$-CH_3$	$-CH_3$	Co^{2+}
G-4	$-CH_3$	$-(CH_2)_3OCH(CH_3)_2$	Ni^{2+}
G-5	$-CH_3$	$-(CH_2)_3OCH(CH_3)_2$	Cu^{2+}
G-6	$-CH_3$	$-(CH_2)_3OCH(CH_3)_2$	Co^{2+}
G-7	$-CH_3$	H	Ni^{2+}
G-8	$-CH_3$	H	Cu^{2+}
G-9	$-CH_3$	H	Co^{2+}



H-1 (Me = Ni^{2+})

H-2 (Me = Cu^{2+})

H-3 (Me = Co^{2+})



I-1 (Me = Ni^{2+})

I-2 (Me = Cu^{2+}) or

I-3 (Me = Co^{2+}).

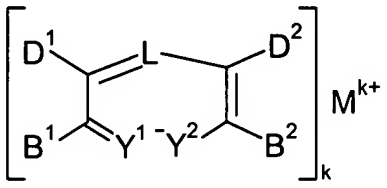
6. (currently amended): A composition, comprising

(a) a metal complex according to ~~any one of~~ claim **[[s]]** 1 ~~to 5~~, and

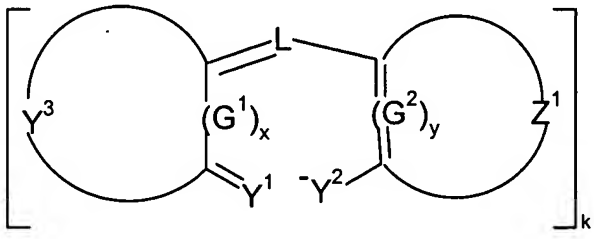
(b) a dye.

7. (original): A composition according to claim 6, wherein

Me in formula I, II, III or IV is Ni^{2+}, Cu^{2+}, or Co^{2+} and the dye is a oxonol dye of formula



(Va) or



(Vb),

wherein D^1, D^2, B^1 and B^2 are in each case a substituent; Y^3 and Z^1 are in each case a group of atoms necessary for the formation of a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring; G^1 and G^2 are in each case a group of atoms necessary for the formation of a chain having conjugated double bonds; Y^1 is =O, $=NR^{109}$ or $=C(CN)_2$, R^{109} being a substituent; Y^2 is -O, $-NR^{109}$ or $-C(CN)_2$, R^{109} being a

substituent; L is a methine group, which may be substituted, or a group by means of which a polymethine group is completed, it being possible for 3, 5 or 7 methine groups to be connected in order to form a chain having conjugated double bonds, which chain may be substituted, x and y are 0 or 1, M^{k+} is an organic or inorganic cation, and k is an integer from 1 to 10

8. (currently amended): An optical recording medium comprising a substrate and at least one recording layer, wherein the recording layer comprises a metal complex according to ~~any one of~~ claim **[[s]]** 1 ~~to 5 or a composition according to claim 6 or 7.~~

9. (cancelled).

10. (currently amended): A method of producing an optical recording medium, wherein a solution of a metal complex according to ~~any one of~~ claim **[[s]]** 1 ~~to 5 or a composition according to claim 6 or 7~~ in a solvent, ~~especially a non-halogenated solvent,~~ is applied to a substrate having depressions.

11. (new): A method of producing an optical recording medium according to claim 10, wherein the solvent is a non-halogenated solvent.

12. (new): A metal complex according to claim 1, wherein Me is a transition metal of Sub-Group 9, 10 or 11, when R^5 or R^6 is a halogen atom it is fluorine, chlorine or bromine, and when R^5 or R^6 is an ester group it is a phosphonic acid, phosphoric acid or carboxylic acid ester group.

13. (new): A metal complex according to claim 2, wherein Me is Cu^{2+}.

14. (new): A metal complex according to claim 2, wherein at least one of A^2 and A^3, is an electron accepting substituent selected from $-NO_2$, chlorine, bromine and a group $-SO_2-NR^8R^9$ and the other is a hydrogen atom

15. (new): A metal complex according to claim 3, wherein Me is Cu^{2+}.

16. (new): An optical recording medium comprising a substrate and at least one recording layer, wherein the recording layer comprises a composition according to claim 6.

17. (new): A method of producing an optical recording medium, wherein a solution of a composition according to claim 6 in a solvent, is applied to a substrate having depressions.

18. (new): A method of producing an optical recording medium according to claim 17, wherein the solvent is a non-halogenated solvent.

19. (new): A color filter or printing ink comprising a metal complex according to claim 1.

20. (new) A color filter or printing ink comprising a composition according to claim 6.